# INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
# SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

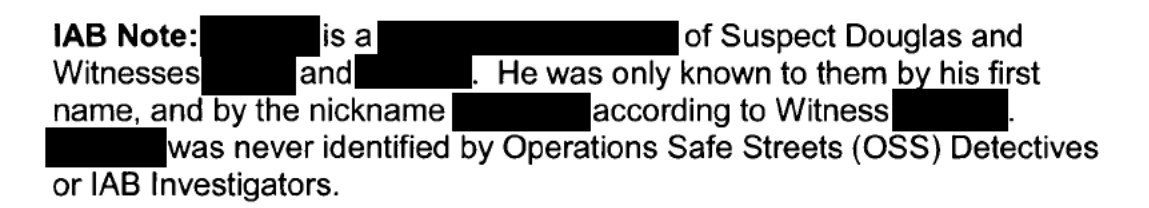
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|---|---|
| **INCIDENT:** | **On-duty, Non-Hit Shooting** |
| **IAB FILE NUMBERS:** | **SH 2445343** |
| **URN#:** | **018-00794- 2846-055** |
| **DATE/TIME:** | **January 16, 2018, 1654 hours** |
| **LOCATION:** | **1116 South Long Beach Boulevard, Compton, CA** |

On January 16, 2018, Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Sergeants Jeremy Carr [redacted], [redacted], and Lieutenant Minh Dinh [redacted] responded to the City of Compton to investigate an on-duty non-hit shooting incident involving Deputy Jose Morales [redacted]. Sergeant Jeremy Carr was the handling investigator.

Lieutenant Dinh confirmed the Incident Commander, Sergeant Kevin Tiwari [redacted], took reasonable steps to ensure the scene was secure. In addition, Lieutenant Dinh checked to see if the incident commander took reasonable steps to have involved personnel gather in the company of a supervisor until they provided a statement to the assigned investigators.

## <u>SYNOPSIS</u>

Deputies Morales and Jimenez were patrolling in the area of Long Beach Boulevard and Marcelle Street, in the City of Compton. As they drove southbound on Long Beach Boulevard from Marcelle Street, they conducted a patrol check of the Travel Plaza Inn. Deputies Morales and Jimenez observed a white sedan stopped in the middle of the Travel Plaza Inn's driveway, across the east sidewalk, facing east. The white sedan was blocking vehicular traffic to the Travel Plaza Inn, and interfering with north/south pedestrian traffic along the east sidewalk of Long Beach Boulevard. Deputies Morales and Jimenez saw one male Black adult (later identified as Witness [redacted]) standing near the white sedan's front driver's side door, and another male Black adult (later identified as Suspect David Douglas) standing near the front passenger's side fender. A third male Black adult (only identified as [redacted]) was sitting in the driver's seat, and a young Black female (later identified as Witness [redacted]) was sitting in the right rear passenger seat.



**IAB Note:** [redacted] is a [redacted] of Suspect Douglas and Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted]. He was only known to them by his first name, and by the nickname [redacted] according to Witness [redacted]. [redacted] was never identified by Operations Safe Streets (OSS) Detectives or IAB Investigators.

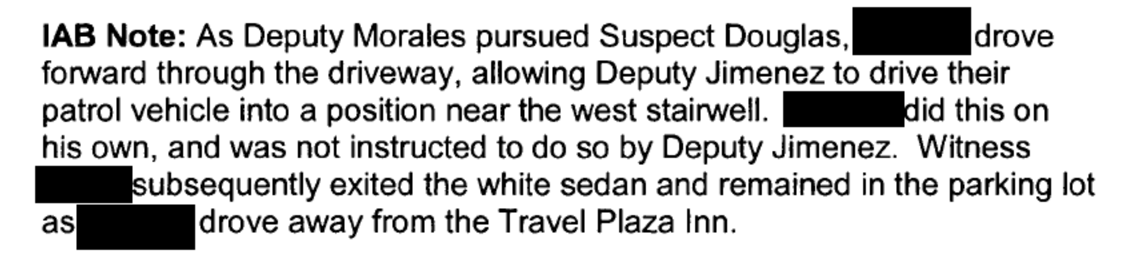
Deputy Jimenez parked behind the white sedan and exited their patrol vehicle. Witness [redacted] immediately approached the driver's side of the patrol vehicle. While Deputy Jimenez contacted Witness [redacted], Suspect Douglas began walking away from Deputies Morales and Jimenez, in what Deputy Morales believed to be an attempt to disassociate himself from the white sedan. Deputy Morales followed Suspect Douglas as Suspect Douglas walked north through the driveway, toward the north building of the Travel Plaza Inn. As Deputy Morales called out to Suspect Douglas, saying he wanted to speak to him, Suspect Douglas ran toward the north building's west stairwell. Based on his observations, coupled with his experience patrolling the Travel Plaza Inn, Deputy Morales believed Suspect Douglas might be involved in human trafficking or prostitution. Deputy Morales chased Suspect Douglas into the west stairwell, and gave him verbal commands to stop running, which Suspect Douglas ignored.

**IAB Note**: The duration of Deputy Morales' foot pursuit was approximately ten (10) seconds and covered a distance of approximately eighty three (83) feet.

Suspect Douglas ran up the first flight of stairs and as he neared the top of the first landing, he turned to his left and pointed a firearm at Deputy Morales, who was approaching the threshold of the west stairwell's doorway. Fearing for his life, Deputy Morales fired one round from his duty weapon at Suspect Douglas, but missed. Suspect Douglas ascended the stairwell and ran out of Deputy Morales' view. Deputy Morales immediately took cover underneath the second flight of stairs and broadcast, via his handheld radio, that he had been involved in a shooting.

**IAB Note:** There was no recording of Deputy Morales' radio transmission. He believed his advisement was inadvertently transmitted on the "direct" frequency. The "direct" frequency allows law enforcement personnel who are within a relatively close range to directly communicate with each other. The radio works like a "walkie-talkie." Per Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC) personnel, unlike the dispatch and tactical channels, the transmissions on the "direct" frequency are not capable of being recorded through the Sheriff's Communication Center, or at the station.

Deputy Morales notified Deputy Jimenez, who was now just east of the west stairwell, that he was not injured.


**IAB Note:** As Deputy Morales pursued Suspect Douglas, [redacted] drove forward through the driveway, allowing Deputy Jimenez to drive their patrol vehicle into a position near the west stairwell. [redacted] did this on his own, and was not instructed to do so by Deputy Jimenez. Witness [redacted] subsequently exited the white sedan and remained in the parking lot as [redacted] drove away from the Travel Plaza Inn.

Deputy Morales advised Deputy Jimenez that Suspect Douglas was running to the second floor. Deputy Morales remained under the cover of the second flight of stairs until he was advised by Deputy Jimenez that Suspect Douglas ran east across the second floor, and into the east stairwell. Deputy Jimenez requested assistance to their location, via his handheld radio **[Exhibit B, DVD, "Radio Traffic"]**.

Once he heard Suspect Douglas go into the east stairwell, Deputy Morales advanced to the second floor. He held his position near the west stairwell, and contained the second floor. At this time, Deputy Jimenez remained on the ground floor parking lot to contain the east stairwell. As Suspect Douglas ran between the second and third floors in the east stairwell, Deputy Jimenez gave Suspect Douglas verbal commands to show his hands and lie down on the ground. When Suspect Douglas returned to the second floor, Deputy Jimenez saw an object fly through the air and hit something, making a noise. As the object fell to the ground, he heard another noise. At this time, Suspect Douglas re-emerged from the east stairwell, walked onto the second floor, and complied with Deputy Morales' orders to show his hands and lie down on the ground. Deputy Morales, who walked halfway across the second floor, detained Suspect Douglas at gunpoint and waited for Deputy Jimenez to respond to the second floor.

Deputy Morales returned to the west stairwell and ascended to the third floor, checking to see if Suspect Douglas discarded his firearm. He then walked east across the third floor to the east stairwell, and descended onto the second floor in order to take a position of advantage behind Suspect Douglas. Once Deputy Jimenez made his way to the second floor, they took Suspect Douglas into custody without incident.

A firearm was not recovered from Suspect Douglas' person; however, a firearm was recovered from the east property line brush, directly below the east stairwell's second floor open air window cut out. Deputy Morales identified the firearm as the one Suspect Douglas pointed at him. The firearm was a Phoenix Arms .22 Long Rifle semiautomatic pistol, which contained ten (10) live rounds.

## INVOLVED EMPLOYEE AND WORK HISTORY

**Jose J. Morales**, Deputy, [redacted]
Central Patrol Division

Compton Sheriff's Station
**Work History**

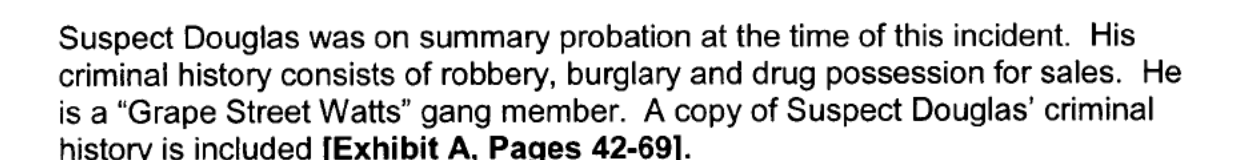
Date of Employment: May 14, 2007

Date Assigned to Patrol/Compton Station: [redacted]
Date Completed Patrol Training: [redacted]
Prior Shooting incident(s): [redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents: [redacted]

**Equipment Worn on Person**

Class A Uniform, Long Sleeve
Ballistic vest
Sam Browne gun belt containing
Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray
Keys
Sidearm Smith and Wesson M&P, 9mm, with one ammunition magazine, rail-mounted Surefire X300 Ultra LED Light, and DG-12 grip switch
Tourniquet
Two handcuff cases containing handcuffs
Flashlight
Department issued portable radio
Magazine pouch containing two additional ammunition magazines

**SUSPECT INFORMATION**

**David Earl Douglas Booking #5206275**
Male, Black, DOB: 10/01/91, 6'00", 160 pounds. Black / Brown

[redacted]

Suspect Douglas was on summary probation at the time of this incident. His criminal history consists of robbery, burglary and drug possession for sales. He is a "Grape Street Watts" gang member. A copy of Suspect Douglas' criminal history is included **[Exhibit A, Pages 42-69].**

**SUSPECT(S) INJURIES:**

Suspect Douglas complained of pain to his back and neck. He was transported to Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital, where he was treated for his injuries by Doctor John Sung, under patient number [redacted] and subsequently medically cleared for the booking process.

**DEPUTY PERSONNEL INJURIES**

None.

## PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

All physical evidence was located and collected under the direction of OSS Detective [redacted] and IAB investigators. They were assisted by Forensic Identification Specialists (FIS) Cathy Johnson [redacted], and David Ozeta [redacted] of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Crime Lab. For descriptions of the evidence collected and where it was collected, see the Crime Scene Investigation Reports **[Exhibit A, Pages 71-84]**.

## SURVEILLANCE VIDEO

The location was equipped with several video surveillance cameras throughout the property. Fraud and Cyber Crimes Detective [redacted] responded to the scene and downloaded video surveillance footage from several cameras **[Exhibit B, DVD, Video]**. Detective [redacted] indicated the video was of extremely poor quality and estimated the picture rate to be less than ten frames per second, where as a television picture is rated at thirty frames per second. Each frame per second represents one still photograph. In essence, the video surveillance footage only revealed ten out of thirty still photographs, capturing approximately one third of the actual incident.

## INVESTIGATOR'S OBSERVATIONS

Approximately three hours elapsed from the time of the shooting to IAB investigator's observations. A walk-through of the shooting scene was conducted. The motel has two buildings with guest rooms and an inner courtyard parking lot. The north building has three stories and is perpendicular (East/West) to Long Beach Boulevard, with the guest room doors facing south. The west building has two stories and is parallel (North/South) to Long Beach Boulevard, with the guest room doors facing east. All guest room doors face the inner courtyard parking lot. The parking lot, stairwells, and walkways were well lit with mounted building lighting and street lights at the time of our arrival.

The scene is described in detail by FIS Cathy Johnson and David Ozeta **[Exhibit A, Pages 71-84]**. Their description of the scene was consistent with IAB investigator's observations. The scene was photographed by FIS Cathy Johnson **[Exhibit B, DVD, Crime Lab 1]**.

## WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY MORALES

Deputy Morales fired one (1) round from his Department authorized, 9 millimeter, Smith & Wesson M&P, semiautomatic pistol, serial number HRK[redacted]. Deputy John Chun [redacted] of the Scientific Services Firearms Identification Section photographed and took possession of Deputy Morales' duty weapon and magazine with live Luger 9mm rounds **[Exhibit B, DVD, Crime Lab 2, Photographs 9759-9768]**. Senior Criminalist Anny WU [redacted] examined his

firearm and found it to be functional **[Exhibit A, Pages 93-94]**. One (1) expended shell casing was recovered at the scene.

Date last qualified: [redacted]
Date last trained with weapon:

## WEAPON USED BY SUSPECT DOUGLAS

Phoenix Arms .22 Long Rifle, semiautomatic pistol, model number HP22A, serial number [redacted]. One (1) live round with head stamp "W" was chambered and nine (9) live rounds with head stamp "W" were loaded in the ten (10) round capacity magazine. The firearm was photographed and collected by FIS Cathy Johnson **[Exhibit B, DVD, Crime Lab 1, Photographs 9556-9587]**. Senior Criminalist Phil Teramoto [redacted] examined the firearm Suspect Douglas used against Deputy Morales and determined it to be functional **[Exhibit A, Pages 91-92]**.

Senior Criminalist Amber Sage [redacted] tested the firearm for DNA analysis. The results of the tests were inconclusive due to the fact the samples were a mixture consistent with between two and five contributors **[Exhibit A, Pages 85-86]**. Forensic Specialist II Patricia Levin [redacted] processed the firearm for latent prints. No latent prints were developed **[Exhibit A, Pages 87-88]**.

## PROPERTY DAMAGE

None.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION:

The criminal investigation into the shooting was handled by OSS Detective [redacted]. Suspect Douglas was charged with felon in possession of a firearm, felon in possession of ammunition, assault on a peace officer with a firearm, and exhibit a firearm in a threatening manner in the presence of a peace officer by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, under TA145557 **[Miscellaneous Documents]**.

## LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

The incident occurred in daylight during the early evening hours. The weather was clear and cool.

## STATEMENTS

*The following narratives are intended only as a synopsis of the interviews which have been paraphrased for clarification purposes. Additional information and*

*precise wording may be obtained by reviewing the digitally audio recorded interviews and verbatim transcriptions.*

## EMPLOYEE WITNESS STATEMENTS

### DEPUTY SERGIO JIMENEZ

On January 29, 2018, IAB Sergeants Jeremy Carr and [redacted] interviewed Deputy Sergio Jimenez at the Internal Affairs Bureau. Deputy Jimenez was represented by Attorney Michael D. Schwartz from Rains, Lucia, Stern, St. Phalle & Silver, PC (RLS). The audio file and transcript were submitted with this case.

On January 16, 2018, Deputies Jimenez and Morales were assigned to Compton 281F3 as a two-man unit. Deputy Jimenez was the driver. As they drove southbound on Long Beach Boulevard from Marcelle Street in their marked black and white patrol vehicle, Deputy Jimenez told Deputy Morales he was going to conduct a patrol check of the Travel Plaza Inn. Upon their arrival, Deputy Jimenez saw a white sedan blocking the west entrance to the Travel Plaza Inn. Deputy Jimenez saw Witness [redacted] standing near the driver's side and Suspect Douglas was standing near the front passenger side fender of the white sedan.

> **IAB Note:** The white sedan was occupied by a male Black adult sitting in the driver's seat and a female sitting in the back seat.

Unsure if the white sedan was disabled or if they were involved in some type of criminal activity, Deputies Jimenez and Morales decided to contact them.

As Deputy Jimenez parked their patrol vehicle behind the white sedan, Witness [redacted] immediately walked toward Deputy Jimenez and lifted his shirt, exposing his waistband. Deputy Jimenez believed Witness [redacted] actions to be either an effort to make Deputy Jimenez feel safe, or a diversionary tactic to draw his attention away from Suspect Douglas. As Witness [redacted] approached Deputy Jimenez, Deputy Jimenez simultaneously saw Suspect Douglas walking away from the white sedan. Deputies Jimenez and Morales communicated to each other that they saw Suspect Douglas walking away from them. Deputy Morales told Deputy Jimenez he was going to follow Suspect Douglas. As Suspect Douglas increased his pace and ran behind the east wall of the west stairwell, Deputy Jimenez lost sight of him. Deputy Jimenez re-entered his patrol vehicle and drove forward after the white sedan travelled into the parking lot. Deputy Jimenez' intentions were to maintain his sight on Deputy Morales, and ensure the security of the contents of the patrol vehicle. He also did not want to block the driveway in the event they might need additional resources to respond to their location.

Deputy Jimenez parked their patrol vehicle adjacent to the wheelchair access ramp, just east of the west stairwell. Deputy Jimenez saw Deputy Morales run toward the stairwell and out of his view. He heard Deputy Morales yell, "[redacted]," followed by a single gunshot. Deputy Jimenez heard Deputy Morales verbally say something to the effect of "male Black." Deputy Jimenez was unsure if Deputy Morales was broadcasting that information via his handheld radio, so Deputy Jimenez broadcasted, via his handheld radio, a deputy involved shooting occurred at the "Travel Plaza." Deputy Jimenez ensured Deputy Morales was not injured and asked, "Moe, Moe, are you okay?" Deputy Morales responded and said, "I'm good, I'm good Serg, I'm good." Deputy Jimenez saw Suspect Douglas emerge on the second floor of the building and run east across the tier. Suspect Douglas appeared to be holding an object in his left hand near his waistband.

Deputy Jimenez requested additional deputies respond to their location, via his handheld radio. Although Deputy Jimenez recalled advising a deputy involved shooting occurred, he believed the transmission might have been cut off due to him broadcasting information before he was actually on the radio. After listening to the audio recording of his radio transmission **[Exhibit B, DVD, "Radio Traffic"]**, Deputy Jimenez realized the deputy involved shooting portion of his transmission was not broadcasted over the radio. Deputy Jimenez also broadcasted he was detaining the suspect on the third floor of the building. He admitted he made a mistake and stated, "Yeah, my adrenaline was just pumping and I put out the wrong information."

As Suspect Douglas traversed the second floor of the building, Deputy Jimenez verbally communicated Suspect Douglas' position to Deputy Morales saying, "Moe, he's at the east side of the building. He's running on the second story." Deputy Morales advised he was going to hold the west stairwell. Deputy Jimenez moved east across the parking lot and could see Suspect Douglas running up and down between the second and third floors, inside the east stairwell. Deputy Jimenez did not believe he was involved in a foot pursuit because he was never behind Suspect Douglas, he never chased him, and never entered the stairwell to apprehend him. Deputy Jimenez felt he maintained a position of advantage where he could observe Suspect Douglas and remain in verbal contact with Deputy Morales, and advise the responding deputies of Suspect Douglas' location.

While Deputy Jimenez remained at the ground floor in the parking lot area, containing the east stairwell, he could now see Deputy Morales advancing toward the middle of the second floor. Deputy Jimenez ordered Suspect Douglas to show his hands.

While Suspect Douglas remained in the east stairwell, Deputy Jimenez saw an unknown object flying through the air, hitting something before falling to the ground. He did not see what the object was because he was focused on the

second floor of the east stairwell. Seconds later, Suspect Douglas emerged from the east stairwell and walked onto the second floor with his hands in the air. Deputy Jimenez told Suspect Douglas to lie down on the ground and Suspect Douglas complied. Deputy Morales detained Suspect Douglas at gunpoint.

Deputy Jimenez, who was now concerned with the growing crowd of people emerging from their motel rooms and unsure if Suspect Douglas had discarded a firearm, decided to run up the west stairwell to assist Deputy Morales taking Suspect Douglas into custody. Deputy Jimenez used this tactic because he wanted to check the west stairwell and third floor of the north building for the firearm. Deputy Jimenez was concerned if Suspect Douglas had discarded a firearm, he did not want someone to pick it up and possibly use it against himself or any deputy personnel. He also wanted to clear the building from top to bottom. Once he cleared the third floor, and believing Deputy Morales sufficiently cleared the second floor, they would only need to clear the bottom floor.

Deputy Jimenez advised Deputy Morales of his plan and made his way to the third floor, ensuring the stairwell was clear of people and the firearm. Deputy Jimenez cleared the west stairwell, moved east toward the east stairwell on the third floor, and verbally updated Deputy Morales of his location. Deputy Jimenez descended the east stairwell and emerged onto the second floor, taking a position behind Suspect Douglas. Deputies Jimenez and Morales took Suspect Douglas into custody without further incident. Deputy Jimenez conducted a pat down search of Suspect Douglas' person for weapons. He did not search Suspect Douglas' pockets for other contraband because his only concern was Suspect Douglas' firearm. An unknown deputy took custody of Suspect Douglas and Deputy Jimenez did not know if anything else was recovered from Suspect Douglas' person. He personally did not book any evidence.

Once additional deputy personnel arrived to their location, and the situation calmed, Deputy Jimenez remembered hearing a noise while attempting to detain Suspect Douglas earlier. Deputy Jimenez returned to where he heard the noise after and located the firearm after approximately five minutes of searching the area. He directed assisting units to guard the gun while the investigation was being conducted.

**SERGEANT GABRIELA VERVERA**

On October 3, 2018, IAB Sergeant Jeremy Carr interviewed Sergeant Gabriella Ververa at Compton Station. The audio file and transcript were submitted with this case.

On January 16, 2018, Sergeant Ververa was as a field sergeant. She walked out of the station to return to her patrol vehicle when she heard a radio transmission, via her handheld radio. Sergeant Ververa heard an unknown male say, "[redacted]."

Sergeant Ververa immediately recognized [redacted] to be the Sheriff's Department radio code for a deputy involved shooting. Shortly after the radio transmission, she heard a busy tone, via her hand held radio, followed by a transmission advising the incident occurred at the Travel Plaza Inn.

Sergeant Ververa's handheld radio was on Compton Station's main dispatch channel. She did not know if the [redacted] radio transmission came through the [redacted] frequency; however, she believed it was possible.

Sergeant Ververa responded to the Travel Plaza Inn to assist with the situation. When she arrived, other sergeants were already managing the scene and the command post so she remained in the field. Sergeant stated she transported someone back to Compton Station; however, she could not remember who the person was.

**SERGEANT KEVIN TIWARI**

On October 16, 2018, IAB Sergeant Jeremy Carr interviewed Sergeant Kevin Tiwari at the Internal Affairs Bureau. The audio file and transcript were submitted with this case.

On January 16, 2018, Sergeant Tiwari was working as the watch commander at Compton Station. At approximately 1654 hours, he was standing in the rear station parking lot with Sergeant Ververa when he heard, via his handheld radio, an unknown male say, [redacted] Sergeant Tiwari, recognizing [redacted] was the Sheriff's Department radio code for a deputy involved shooting. He confirmed what he heard with Sergeant Ververa, and responded to the Compton Station's dispatch area. He asked the watch deputy if they heard the [redacted] radio transmission inside the dispatch area. The watch deputy told him they did not. Shortly after the radio transmission, Sergeant Tiwari heard a busy tone on his handheld radio. He knew his radio was on the main radio frequency. He heard deputies broadcast emergent radio traffic, indicating they were detaining an assault-with-a-deadly-weapon suspect.

Sergeant Tiwari was unable to decipher if the [redacted] radio transmission was broadcast via the [redacted] frequency; however, he believed it was possible.

Sergeant Tiwari responded to the location and assumed the role as the incident commander.

**CIVILIAN WITNESS STATEMENTS**

IAB Sergeants Jeremy Carr and [redacted] contacted several civilian witnesses who were in the area of the Travel Plaza Inn, who heard the gunshot and saw subsequent police activities at 1116 South Long Beach Boulevard. Their statements were digitally recorded and summarized.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

On January 16, 2018, IAB Sergeants Jeremy Carr and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) at the Travel Plaza Inn. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed. The audio file and transcript were submitted with this case. Following is a summary of the interview.

Witness [redacted] was sitting in his motel room (Room [redacted]) when he heard what he believed to be two gunshots.

> **IAB Note:** Room [redacted] is located on the [redacted] of the north building. It is the [redacted] east of the west stairwell, where the shooting occurred.

Witness [redacted] immediately ran outside and saw one deputy (Deputy Jimenez) running east through the parking lot. He heard Deputy Jimenez say something to the effect of "freeze."

Witness [redacted] accidentally locked himself out of his room, so he walked to the motel [redacted] to get a new key. While in the office, he saw Suspect Douglas lying on the ground by the east stairwell of the second floor of the north building, facing west. He did not see Deputies Morales and Jimenez handcuff Suspect Douglas. Witness [redacted] remained in the motel [redacted] until additional deputies arrived on scene.

Witness [redacted] was [redacted] of Suspect Douglas. He described Suspect Douglas as a [redacted] and only knew Suspect Douglas [redacted] Suspect Douglas and his [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) came to Witness [redacted]. When they left Witness [redacted]'s room, he believed they were waiting for an UBER vehicle to pick them up. Witness [redacted] stated he has only seen Suspect Douglas in the area approximately two times prior to this incident.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

On January 16, 2018, IAB Sergeants Jeremy Carr and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) at the Travel Plaza Inn. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed. The audio file and transcript were submitted with this case. Following is a summary of the interview.

Witness [redacted] was [redacted] when she heard the sound of screeching tires.

> **IAB Note:** The [redacted] was located at the north/east corner of the west building, across the driveway from the west stairwell, where the shooting occurred.

The sound of the screeching tires caused Witness [redacted] to look at the surveillance camera monitor. While looking at the television monitor for surveillance camera number five, which was recording in the west stairwell of the north building, she saw Suspect Douglas run out of the monitor's view. She heard a single gunshot and saw what she believed to be the muzzle flash from Deputy Morales' duty weapon. Witness [redacted] did not see Suspect Douglas in the camera frame. Witness [redacted] indicated she physically heard the single gunshot, as the video surveillance equipment does not record audio.

> **IAB Note:** After reviewing the video surveillance footage, it appears the flash of light Witness [redacted] saw on the camera was from the flashlight mounted on Deputy Morales' duty weapon, rather than a muzzle flash **[Exhibit B, DVD, Video, "Cam5"]**.

Witness [redacted] walked outside and stood by the lobby door, where she saw a deputy (Deputy Morales) chase a male (Suspect Douglas), who was now on the east side of the north building, on the second floor. As Suspect Douglas ran into the east stairwell, Deputy Morales followed him and stopped in front of Room [redacted] Suspect Douglas ran to the third floor and remained inside the stairwell, never emerging onto the third floor. Suspect Douglas then ran back down to the second floor, where Deputy Morales detained him at gunpoint. Witness [redacted] heard Suspect Douglas, who now had his hands up in the air, telling Deputy Morales not to shoot him. She heard Deputy Morales say, "You were pointing the gun at me." Suspect Douglas responded, "I swear to God, I didn't," as he lay down on the ground.

Witness [redacted] saw another deputy (Deputy Jimenez) in the east side of the parking lot, on the ground floor. She believed he was attempting to stop the white sedan from leaving the area; however, the vehicle left the parking lot. While Deputy Morales detained Suspect Douglas on the second floor, Deputy Jimenez went to the west stairwell of the north building and went up to the third floor. He ran across the third floor, to the east stairwell, and walked back down to the second floor. Deputy Jimenez approached Suspect Douglas from behind and subsequently took him into custody. Witness [redacted] walked back into the rental office and did not witness anything further.

Witness [redacted] did not see Suspect Douglas holding anything in his hands when he ran from the deputies. She stated, "...I really didn't see him run, because, like I said, I was on my phone ... it happened quick, so, I didn't pay attention to what is it that he was doing, so."

**WITNESS [redacted]**

On January 17, 2018, IAB Sergeants Jeremy Carr and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) at Compton Station. The interview was

digitally recorded and transcribed. The audio file and transcript were submitted with this case. Following is a summary of the interview.

Witness [redacted] was seated in the rear right passenger seat of the white sedan. The white sedan belonged to an acquaintance named "[redacted]," who Witness [redacted] described as a [redacted] of her [redacted], Suspect Douglas. The white sedan was parked at the entrance of the driveway leading into the Travel Plaza Inn, facing east. "[redacted]" was the driver of the white sedan, and Suspect Douglas was standing near the front of the white sedan, speaking to [redacted] and another male (Witness [redacted]).

Deputies Morales and Jimenez pulled up and parked their patrol vehicle behind the white sedan. As they exited their patrol vehicle, Deputy Morales charged after Suspect Douglas. She explained "charge" as in "walking fast." Suspect Douglas walked away from the white sedan and Witness [redacted] lost sight of them. Witness [redacted] did not hear the deputies say anything to Suspect Douglas.

After Witness [redacted] heard a loud "boom," [redacted] drove her into the parking lot of the Travel Plaza Inn, and Witness [redacted] exited the white sedan. She saw Suspect Douglas lying face down on the ground of the second floor of the north building, facing west, while Deputies Morales and Jimenez detained him at gunpoint. Witness [redacted] began to videotape the rest of the incident with her cell phone from the parking lot. She did not see the deputies handcuff Suspect Douglas, nor did she see the deputies use force on Suspect Douglas.

> **IAB Note:** The cell phone video provided by Witness [redacted] is approximately one second in length. The video shows what appears to be the west side of the north building of the Travel Plaza Inn. A male can be heard saying, "I don't want…" and the video ends **[Exhibit B, DVD, Video, "Diggs"]**.

Witness [redacted] stated she had never seen Suspect Douglas carry a firearm prior to this incident, nor had she seen him with a firearm the day of the incident.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

On January 17, 2018, IAB Sergeants Jeremy Carr and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) at Compton Station. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed. The audio file and transcript were submitted with this case. Following is a summary of the interview.

Witness [redacted] was walking through the parking lot of the Travel Plaza Inn when he saw a friend pull his vehicle into the driveway of the motel. Witness [redacted] knew the driver from their [redacted], and only knew his name as [redacted] or [redacted]

Suspect Douglas and Witness [redacted] were walking through the parking lot at the same time as Witness [redacted]. Witness [redacted] did not know Suspect Douglas or Witness [redacted]; however, [redacted] knew Suspect Douglas and introduced them. When Deputies Morales and Jimenez parked their patrol vehicle behind the white sedan, Deputy Jimenez exited the driver's side and told Witness [redacted] to walk over to the patrol vehicle. Witness [redacted], who was on parole, immediately complied. Deputy Jimenez contacted Witness [redacted], inquired about his pocket knife, and allowed him to leave. Suspect Douglas was now standing in front of the white sedan.

As Witness [redacted] left the area, he walked north on Long Beach Boulevard, along the east sidewalk, adjacent to the north building's west stairwell. A few seconds later, (approximately three seconds), Witness [redacted] looked through the first floor window on the west wall of the west stairwell, and saw Suspect Douglas running up the stairs. Witness [redacted] heard Deputy Morales say, "Yo, stop. Hey. Hey, stop." Witness [redacted] did not see Suspect Douglas with a gun. Deputy Morales fired one round from his duty weapon at Suspect Douglas from inside the west stairwell.

Witness [redacted] continued walking northbound to a nearby store. Shortly thereafter, Witness [redacted] returned to the Travel Plaza Inn and saw Suspect Douglas lying on the ground at the east side of the second floor. Witness [redacted] was standing in the parking lot, videotaping the incident. Witness [redacted] heard Suspect Douglas tell the deputies he did not do anything. When the deputies took Suspect Douglas into custody, they placed handcuffs on him and lifted him off the floor. Witness Douglas did not see the deputies use force on Suspect Douglas.

**SUSPECT DAVID DOUGLAS**

On January 16, 2018, IAB Sergeants Jeremy Carr and [redacted] interviewed David Douglas (Suspect Douglas) at Compton Station. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed. The audio file and transcript were submitted with this case. Following is a summary of the interview.

Suspect Douglas and Witness [redacted] went to the Travel Plaza Inn to pick up money from Witness [redacted]. Afterward, Suspect Douglas and Witness [redacted] waited for his friend [redacted] to pick them up. When [redacted] arrived to the Travel Plaza Inn, he pulled into the driveway between the north and south buildings of the Travel Plaza Inn, adjacent to the west stairwell. Witness [redacted] got in the back seat. Suspect Douglas approached the white sedan and was about to get into the front passenger seat, when he saw [redacted] speaking to Witness [redacted]. Suspect Douglas had never seen Witness [redacted] before.

Next, Deputies Morales and Jimenez pulled their patrol vehicle behind [redacted] vehicle. As Deputies Morales and Jimenez exited their patrol vehicle, they had

their duty weapons drawn. Suspect Douglas, who claimed he had approximately one ounce of marijuana on his person and was in fear of being arrested, immediately ran toward the north building's west stairwell.

> **IAB Note:** According to OSS Detective [redacted], only a small amount of marijuana was recovered from Suspect Douglas' person, which did not constitute a crime. The marijuana was later released to Witness [redacted].

As Suspect Douglas ran up the stairs, he heard Deputy Morales say, "Stop." As he ran up the first flight of stairs, Suspect Douglas heard a single gunshot. Suspect Douglas ran to the second floor and continued running east across the second floor toward the east stairwell. Suspect Douglas heard a deputy say, "Put your hands up. Get on the ground." He also saw a deputy on the ground floor, watching the east stairwell who told him to "freeze." Suspect Douglas realized all avenues of escape were covered by deputies and he believed he would not be able to get away. He immediately placed his hands in the air, and told Witness [redacted] to record the incident. Deputies ordered him to get on the ground, and he complied. He was subsequently taken into custody by the deputies.

Suspect Douglas stated he never entered the east stairwell, nor did he run to the third floor and go back down to the second floor and surrender. Suspect Douglas indicated he only went as far as the second door, west of the east stairwell.

> **IAB Note:** Video surveillance footage revealed Suspect Douglas ran east across the second floor, entered the east stairwell, and appeared in the second floor open air window cut out, located along the south wall, inside of the east stairwell. **[Exhibit B, DVD, Video, "Cam9"]**. Suspect Douglas re-emerged in the doorway of the third floor of the east stairwell and went back down to the second floor, where he surrendered to Deputy Morales. He was subsequently taken into custody by Deputies Morales and Jimenez.

Suspect Douglas denied ever pointing a firearm at Deputy Morales and carrying a firearm on the day of the incident, but admitted he was "stupid" for running from the police.

During the interview, Suspect Douglas complained of pain to his lower back. He stated the injury was caused when a deputy kneed him in the back while taking him into custody at the termination of the incident. Suspect Douglas was treated for his injuries at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital and medically cleared for the booking process.

## INVOLVED EMPLOYEE DEPUTY JOSE MORALES

On January 16, 2018, IAB Sergeants Jeremy Carr and [redacted] inspected Deputy Morales' duty weapon at Compton Sheriff's Station and conducted an ammunition count. The audio file and transcript were submitted with this case. During the ammunition count, it was discovered Deputy Morales had only loaded nine live rounds in one of the seventeen round capacity magazines, which he carried in the ammunition pouch on his gun belt. Deputy Morales explained he had recently attended training [redacted] Instead of reloading the magazine he used during the training, Deputy Morales replaced the magazine with a spare magazine from a tactical vest he kept in the trunk of his patrol vehicle. Deputy Morales failed to inspect the replacement magazine, ensuring it was loaded to capacity prior to placing it in his gun belt.

On January 29, 2018, Deputy Morales was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Jeremy Carr and [redacted] at the Internal Affairs Bureau. Deputy Morales was represented by Attorney Michael D. Schwartz from RLS. The audio file and transcript were submitted with this case.
Deputy Morales was assigned to the Compton Sheriff's Station Special Assignment Office (SAO Team). At the time of the incident, he had been assigned to the SAO Team for approximately [redacted]. Deputy Morales indicated the mission of the SAO Team was to focus on solving the quality of life issues. Their duties included patrol checks based on citizen complaints generated about the parks, liquor stores, motels, etc. They would also target specific criminal activities occurring within the City of Compton.

On January 16, 2018, Deputy Morales was assigned to Compton 281F3 with Deputy Jimenez. They worked from [redacted]. Deputy Morales was the passenger. They were not regular partners; however they periodically worked with each other prior to this incident.

Deputies Morales and Jimenez drove southbound on Long Beach Boulevard from Marcelle Street, in their marked black and white patrol vehicle. As they approached the Travel Plaza Inn, Deputy Morales saw a white sedan in the driveway, preventing other vehicles from entering and exiting the Travel Plaza Inn. He also saw two males (Witness [redacted] and Suspect Douglas) standing next to the white sedan. Witness [redacted] was standing near the driver's door and Suspect Douglas was standing near the front passenger door. Deputy Jimenez told Deputy Morales they were going to contact the individuals and warn/advise them regarding the observed vehicle code violation.

> **IAB Note:** Deputies Morales and Jimenez did not run the white sedan's license plate prior to contacting the individuals.

Deputy Jimenez parked behind the white sedan and exited the patrol vehicle. As Deputy Jimenez approached the rear of the white vehicle, Witness [redacted]

walked toward Deputy Jimenez, pulled up his shirt, and said, "We're good, deputy, we're good." Based on his training and experience, Deputy Morales believed Witness [redacted] was attempting to distract them and divert their attention from the other individuals in the area.

As Witness [redacted] spoke to Deputy Jimenez, Deputy Morales exited the front passenger seat of the patrol vehicle. Suspect Douglas looked toward Deputies Morales and Jimenez and began walking away from them. Deputy Morales noticed, what appeared to be, a young girl sitting in the back seat of the white sedan and a male sitting in the driver's seat. Based on his observations, coupled with the fact that Deputy Morales had prior knowledge/experience about the Travel Plaza Inn, which was known for its high level of criminal activity, including narcotics, gang activities, prostitution, and murder, Deputy Morales believed Suspect Douglas was possibly involved in human trafficking. Deputy Morales followed Suspect Douglas as he walked toward the north building's west stairwell. As Deputy Morales walked past the white sedan, he saw the driver's hands on the steering wheel. At this time, they were about eight feet away from each other. Suspect Douglas started running toward the west stairwell. Deputy Morales chased him on foot while yelling, "Hey man stop. Hey, let me talk to you, bro. Let me talk to you" **[Morales IAB Interview, Page12]**.

Deputy Morales un-holstered his duty weapon and held it in a "low-ready" position as he followed Suspect Douglas toward the west stairwell. Suspect Douglas entered the west stairwell and as he reached the second step of the first flight of stairs, he turned his body slightly to his left and looked at Deputy Morales, who was approaching the threshold of the west stairwell. Deputy Morales estimated the distance between them to be approximately six feet. As Suspect Douglas ran up the stairwell, he raised his left arm, reached across his body with his right arm, and pointed a firearm at him. Deputy Morales, who had illuminated the dark stairwell with the light attached to his duty weapon, immediately recognized the firearm by its silver barrel and slide. Suspect Douglas was now approximately two steps below the landing between the first and second flight of stairs leading to the second floor. Fearing for his life and cognizant of the backdrop, Deputy Morales fired one round from his duty weapon at Suspect Douglas from an estimated distance of approximately twelve feet. Deputy Morales believed his body was just outside the threshold of the door frame and his arms might have reached past the threshold of the west stairwell, when he fired his weapon.

Suspect Douglas continued running up the stairs and out of Deputy Morales' view. Deputy Morales did not know if Suspect Douglas was injured by the bullet. Deputy Morales entered the west stairwell and took cover under the second flight of stairs. He broadcast emergent radio traffic, via his handheld radio, advising a deputy involved shooting occurred. Deputy Morales believed he was on Compton Station's main radio frequency ([redacted]); however, he later learned

he might have left his radio on the [redacted] frequency after asking another unit, who was on a traffic stop, if they were okay, earlier in the shift.

Through verbal communication, Deputy Morales advised Deputy Jimenez he was okay, and that Suspect Douglas had pointed a gun at him and run upstairs. Seconds later, Deputy Jimenez advised Suspect Douglas was running toward the east stairwell. Deputy Morales heard Deputy Jimenez broadcast emergent radio traffic, via his handheld radio, that a [redacted] suspect" was running toward the east stairwell on the second floor. He heard Suspect Douglas had made it to the third floor. Deputy Jimenez told Deputy Morales to move to the second floor and hold his position there. Deputy Morales took cover near the threshold on the second floor's west stairwell. Deputy Morales could not see Suspect Douglas on the second floor; however, he could hear Deputy Jimenez, who was on the ground floor, ordering Suspect Douglas to surrender.

Deputy Morales acknowledged he had no cover when he advanced east across the second floor in order to better hear Deputy Jimenez. However, he perceived no imminent threat since Deputy Jimenez provided updates of Suspect Douglas' position. As Deputy Morales covered the threshold of the second floor east stairwell, Suspect Douglas emerged with his hands in the air. Deputy Morales no longer saw Suspect Douglas in possession of a firearm. Deputy Morales ordered Suspect Douglas to get on the floor in a "prone" position to which Suspect Douglas complied. Deputy Morales detained Suspect Douglas at gunpoint from a distance of approximately twenty five feet. Deputy Jimenez verbally told Deputy Morales he was going to the west stairwell to clear the area behind Deputy Morales. Deputy Jimenez then went to the third floor, crossed over to the east stairwell, and went back down to the second floor. Deputy Jimenez used verbal communication to update Deputy Morales of his movements and locations. Once Deputy Jimenez arrived on the second floor, Deputies Morales and Jimenez took Suspect Douglas into custody without further incident. He did not use any additional force on Suspect Douglas, nor did he see Deputy Jimenez use force on Suspect Douglas during the arrest. He did not search Suspect Douglas and did not know if anything was found on his person.

Deputy Morales did not broadcast he was in a foot pursuit, via his handheld radio, because the incident happened so fast. He did not have time to put out radio traffic. Deputy Morales estimated his foot pursuit lasted between five and ten seconds, and covered a distance of approximately twenty five feet. Although Deputy Morales could not see Deputy Jimenez while he pursued Suspect Douglas, he estimated Deputy Jimenez was approximately fifteen feet away from him and could have immediately helped him if needed

Deputy Morales indicated he was in fear for his life when Suspect Douglas pointed a gun at him, and he intentionally fired his duty weapon at Suspect Douglas. Deputy Morales described his state of mind, saying, "When I first saw the gun it just … became bigger … I had lost sight of his … face and I just saw that ... I squeezed my trigger to shoot him, it felt like my gun wasn't working ... it

took forever for my, my round to come out … I didn't even hear the noise, it just sounded like … I was wearing ear muffs ... when he went up the stairs … after the shot happened … it was kind of like a rush, kind of … panicky … kind of like scared … I couldn't … run away or anything, so that's why I, I took cover … just in case he decided to come back and, and shoot me."